Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A stent having a plurality of segments which form a tubular body, the body having a circumference and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells which are bounded at a first end by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element and two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element, the first end offset in a circumferential direction from the second end relative to the circumference of the body,

each annular element having a structure, the structure of a first ~~segment~~ annular element of the stent ~~having~~ providing the stent with less compression resistance than provided by the structure of a second ~~segment~~ annular element of the stent, wherein the first ~~segment~~ annular element is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein the connecting members are connected to the peak portions and valley portions of the adjacent annular elements ~~members~~.

Claims 11-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second annular elements ~~segments~~ are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A stent having a plurality of segments which form a tubular body, the body having a circumference and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern having a plurality of peaks and troughs,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements from peak to trough to form a plurality of cells, each cell having an area; each connecting member having a first end and a second end, the second end offset in a circumferential direction from the first end relative to the circumference of the body,

each annular element having a structure, the structure of a first ~~segment~~ annular element of the stent ~~having~~ providing the stent with less compression resistance than provided by the structure of a second ~~segment~~ annular element of the stent, wherein the first ~~segment~~ annular element is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A stent having a tubular body, the body having a circumference, wherein the stent comprises:

a plurality of serpentine bands, wherein each band has a proximal end and a distal end and comprises alternating peaks and valleys, the peaks located at the proximal end and the valleys located at the distal end; adjacent serpentine bands connected by connecting members, each connecting member connected between a peak and a valley, the stent having a plurality of cells, each cell defined by two connecting members and portions of two different serpentine bands, one of the portions being proximal to the other portion, the peaks of the proximal portion being offset circumferentially from the ~~troughs~~ valleys of the distal portion relative to the circumference of the body.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made from Nitinol.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made of a self-expandable material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the serpentine bands include bands of a shorter length and bands of a longer length, the longer length bands located at first and second ends of the stent.

Claim 21. (New) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first annular element spans a greater distance along the length of the stent than the second annular element.

Claim 22. (New) The stent of claim 9, wherein the connecting members are non-parallel to a stent longitudinal axis.

Claim 23. (New) The stent of claim 9, wherein each cell of the stent is bounded at a first end

by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element, and by two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element.

Claim 24. (New) The stent of claim 9, wherein each annular element comprises peaks and valleys that are not connected to a connecting member.

Claim 25. (New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the first and second annular elements are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent

Claim 26. (New) The stent of claim 16, wherein the first annular element spans a greater distance along the length of the stent than the second annular element

Claim 27. (New) The stent of claim 16, wherein each cell of the stent is bounded at a first end by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element, and by two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element.

Claim 28. (New) The stent of claim 16, wherein each annular element comprises peaks and troughs that are not connected to a connecting member.

Claim 29. (New) The stent of claim 17, wherein the connecting members are non-parallel to a stent longitudinal axis.

Claim 30. (New) The stent of claim 17, wherein each serpentine band comprises peaks and valleys that are not connected to a connecting member.